

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 19570 151728Z
ACTION EUR-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 ONY-00 /004 W
----- 013252 /43
P 151527Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2110

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 19570

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FOR GARRISON FROM MATLOCK

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OGEN
SUBJ: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. RE PARA 5 OF STATE 303403, THE NOTE AT THE BOTTOM OF OUR LATEST "HUMAN CONTACTS - COMPARISON BY SIX MONTH PERIODS" REFERS TO PARAGRAPHS IIA AND IIB WHICH APPEAR ABOVE THE NOTE AND INCLUDED BOTH TCP AND IV PROGRAMS. THE REFERENCE TO PARAGRAPHS III AND IV IS HOLDOVER FROM THE PREVIOUS YEARLY FIGURE SHEET PREPARED IN JANUARY 1976. WHEN WE CHANGED NUMBERING OF PARAGRAPHS, WE DID NOT REMEMBER TO CHANGE THE NOTE. SORRY FOR ANY CONFUSION CAUSED.
2. EGON MEHLBERG TELEPHONED DECEMBER 14 TO TELL US THAT HE HAD NOT CONTACTED US CONCERNING HIS VISA CASE BECAUSE HE HAD BEEN ILL AND HOSPITALIZED. HE IS READY TO GO NOW AND WE PLAN TO HAVE HIM IN FOR A FINAL INTERVIEW DECEMBER 29.
3. COMPLETION OF MEYSAROSH CASE WAS ALSO DELAYED BY ILLNESS IN THE FAMILY, BUT WE HAVE NOW RESCHEDULED FINAL INTERVIEW FOR DECEMBER 21. WE MAY MAKE ONE MORE ATTEMPT TO GET A RECONSIDERATION IN HIS CASE AS WELL.
4. PARA 2 MOSCOW 19458 REFERRED, OF COURSE, TO AMSTER, BRAWER, AND BURN, ALTHOUGH THIS MAY NOT HAVE BEEN APPARENT FROM THE TEXT. IT WAS OUR COMMENT ON THE REPORTED BELIEF OF

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THEIR RELATIVES THAT THEIR APPEALS WOULDN'T MAKE MUCH

DIFFERENCE.

5. GEORGE KOSTAKIS VISITED EMBASSY DECEMBER 13 TO TURN IN COMPLETED IMMIGRATION QUESTIONNAIRE AND EVIDENCE OF SUFFICIENT FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO SUPPORT APPLICATION FOR NON-PREFERENCE IVS FOR HIMSELF AND HIS WIFE. HE TOLD US THAT WORKING LEVEL CONTACTS IN MINISTRY OF CULTURE HAVE TOLD HIM THAT HIS PROPOSAL TO DEPART WITH 10-15 PERCENT OF HIS COLLECTION WHILE LEAVING THE REST TO THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT IS ON TRACK, ALTHOUGH HE HAS NOT YET RECEIVED OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION. HE TOLD US THAT HE PLANS TO APPLY FOR EXIT PERMISSION IN NEAR FUTURE. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT HE WILL RECEIVE EXIT PERMISSION BEFORE NON-PREFERENCE VISA NUMBERS BECOME AVAILABLE. WE NOTED YOUR COMMENT RE SAFARYAN FAMILY IN PARA 4 STATE 302532 THAT VO EXPECTS SOME NON-PREFERENCE NUMBERS TO BE AVAILABLE TO IMMIGRANTS IN NAPLES. COULD VO ALSO GIVE US A READING RE LIKELY PRIORITY DATE FOR NON-PREFERENCE IMMIGRANTS HERE (ACCORDING TO QUESTIONNAIRE BOTH KOSTAKIS AND HIS WIFE WERE BORN IN RUSSIA IN 1913 AND 1912 RESPECTIVELY). THEIR PRIORITY DATE WOULD BE DECEMBER 13 SINCE THIS WAS DATE ON WHICH THEY ESTABLISHED EXEMPTION FROM REQUIREMENT FOR LABOR CERTIFICATION. IF PROSPECTS FOR AVAILABILITY OF NUMBERS ARE NOT BRIGHT, WE'LL CONTACT KOSTAKIS AND TELL HIM NOT TO RUSH HIS APPLICATION FOR EXIT PERMISSION. KOSTAKIS ALSO ASKED WHETHER THE COLLECTION OF WORKDS HE WILL BE PERMITTED TO KEEP (BY HIS ESTIMATION 80-90 WORKS WORTH AT LEAST \$600,000) WOULD BE SUBJECT TO US CUSTOMS DUTIES. WE CHECKED WITH EMBASSY ECON/COMMERCIAL OFFICE WHICH TOLD US THAT ART WORKS ARE EXEMPT FROM DUTIES. WE'LL PASS THIS ON TO KOSTAKIS AT FIRST OPPORTUNITY. MATLOCK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOSCOW19570
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760461-1297
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761241/aaaabjeh.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <07 SEP 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL
TAGS: OGEN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006